

We Are the Community

by G. L. Perkins

Fun Facts

- The United States does not have an official language.
- The White House was named one hundred years after it was built.
- Wyoming is the state with the fewest people. California has the most people.

Genre

Nonfiction

Text Features

- Glossary
- Symbols

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In this book you will learn about communities and what makes them the same and different. You will learn about the different people who live in communities.



Vocabulary

immigrant
ancestor
tradition
culture

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What is a community? A community is made up of schools, shops, houses, and people who live and work there.

People in the United States come from many different countries. People who move to a new country are called **immigrants**. You may have been born in the United States, but your **ancestors** probably came from another country. When immigrants come to the United States, they may have their own **traditions**.



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Sometimes people of the same **culture** will live in the same community. A person's culture shapes his or her beliefs and traditions. In these communities it is easy to learn about a culture.

There are many different languages in the United States. Signs may not always look alike. Words may sound different. Even so, the words all say something important!



The foods we eat are another way we show our culture. The foods people eat in Asian countries may be different from the foods people eat in Latin American countries. When immigrants come to the United States, they sometimes keep making foods from their native country. In our communities you may find foods from other countries. We share each other's culture by sharing different kinds of food.



In almost every community, people play games. Some of the games we play come from other cultures. There are counting games that come from Africa. Karate is a sport that comes from Asia. Then there is soccer, which is played in many countries. No matter where you are from, almost everyone likes to play games.



One of the most important things about the United States is that we are free to express ourselves. Freedom is one reason that so many people live in the United States. People in your community may not always agree with one another. They may dress differently or eat different foods. They may have different customs and traditions. Because this is a free country, we know that it is okay to be different.



This is our community. It is where we live and work and go to school. We are students and teachers, policemen and firemen, and families from different cultures. Our differences make our community a special place. As Americans we are all connected. We are a community.

Glossary

ancestor a member of your family who lived in the past

culture the way a group of people live

immigrant a person who enters another country to live there

tradition a special way that a group does something

Write to It!

Think about your community. How do people work together to make it a good place to live? Write a paragraph about your ideas.

Write your paragraph on another sheet of paper.

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